

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

25. (amended) An isolated polypeptide [~~eontaining~~] comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24; [~~or containing (i) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24, of which one or more amino acids are deleted, (ii) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24, to which one or more amino acids are added, (iii) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24, into which one or more amino acids are inserted, (iv) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24, in which one or more amino acids are substituted by other amino acids, or (v) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24 containing a combination of the modifications described in the above (i) to (iv), and having a biological activity substantially equivalent to that of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:24~~]; or its amide or ester; or a salt thereof.
26. (amended) The polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 25, which [~~eontains~~] has the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6; [~~or which contains (i) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, of which one or more amino acids are deleted, (ii) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, to which one or more amino acids are added, (iii) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, into which one or more amino acids are inserted, (iv) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, in which one or more amino acids are substituted by other amino acids, or (v) an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6 containing a combination of the modifications described in the above (i) to (iv), and has a biological activity substantially equivalent to that of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:6~~].

27. (amended) [~~The~~] An isolated polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof~~],~~
~~according to claim 25],~~ which [~~contains~~] comprises the amino acid sequence represented
by SEQ ID NO:26.
28. (amended) The polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [26]
27, which [~~contains~~] has the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:12.
29. (amended) [~~The~~] An isolated polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof~~],~~
~~according to claim 25],~~ which [~~contains~~] comprises the amino acid sequence represented
by SEQ ID NO:49.
30. (amended) The polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [26]
29, which [~~contains~~] has the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:47.
31. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid [~~having a base~~] sequence
encoding the polypeptide [~~according to claim 25~~] comprising the amino acid sequence
represented by SEQ ID NO:6, 12, 24, 26, 47 or 49.
32. (amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 31, wherein the [~~base~~] nucleic
acid sequence [~~encoding the polypeptide according to claim 25~~] is [~~the base sequence~~]
represented by SEQ ID NO:23.
33. (amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 31, wherein the [~~base~~] nucleic
acid sequence [~~encoding the polypeptide according to claim 25~~] is [~~the base sequence~~]
represented by SEQ ID NO:4.
34. (amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 31, wherein the [~~base~~] nucleic
acid sequence [~~encoding the polypeptide according to claim 25~~] is [~~the base sequence~~]

represented by SEQ ID NO:25.

35. (amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 31, wherein the [base] nucleic acid sequence [~~encoding the polypeptide according to claim 25~~] is the [base sequence] represented by SEQ ID NO:10.
36. (amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 31, wherein the [base] nucleic acid sequence [~~encoding the polypeptide according to claim 25~~] is [the base sequence] represented by SEQ ID NO:48.
37. (amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 31, wherein the [base] sequence [~~encoding the polypeptide according to claim 25~~] is [the base sequence] represented by SEQ ID NO:46.
38. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, [~~according to claim 25~~] which comprises the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, 12, 24, 26, 47 or 49 and a pharmaceutical carrier.

Claims 39-40 (canceled).

41. (previously added) An isolated polypeptide wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 6, 12, 24, 26, 47 and 49.
42. (previously added) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 31.
43. (previously added) A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 42.
44. (amended) A method for manufacturing the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, 12, 24, 26, 47 or 49, [~~according to claim 25~~], which comprises culturing a transformant transformed with

the recombinant vector comprising a DNA having a [base] nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide [~~according to claim 25~~], and producing the polypeptide.

45. (currently amended) A reagent for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6, 12, 24, 26, 47 or 49 [~~or its salt according to claim 25~~], which comprises the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, [~~according to claim 25, wherein the polypeptide comprises a label~~].
46. (currently amended) A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6,12,24,26,47 or 49, [~~its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 25, comprising~~] which comprises the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof [~~or its salt according to claim 25 and a reagent for measuring a biological activity of the polypeptide~~].
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